



# Chaffee County Public Health

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Chaffee County, CO- As we continue to prepare for and navigate this upcoming respiratory illness season, Chaffee County Public Health (CCPH) would like the public to know a few updates as of the date of this press release. Please note that the respiratory illness season landscape is likely to change in the upcoming weeks and months. CCPH will update the community as appropriate.

## **RSV**

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common, contagious virus that usually causes mild symptoms such as fever, headache, congestion, and cough. However, symptoms can range from mild to severe and can last up to two weeks. In older adults and adults with certain underlying conditions, RSV can cause severe infections. CCPH recently received an order of RSV vaccine for those 60 and older, based on risk factors, for those who have commercial insurance. The vaccine is also approved for pregnant people 32-36 weeks gestation with risk factors. The public is encouraged to consult with their doctor or a public health nurse whether this vaccine is recommended for them.

In addition, CCPH has ordered the RSV monoclonal antibodies for children and has been informed that there will be a wait to receive it. Nirsevimab (or Beyfortis™) was recently recommended and approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for all infants younger than 8 months old born during or entering their first RSV season and for infants and children 8-19 months who remain at elevated risk. Nirsevimab may not be paid for by all health plans this first RSV season. As a result, many infants and children may be underinsured. Currently, underinsured Vaccine For Children (VFC)-eligible children can only receive vaccines at select VFC provider locations in Colorado or local public health agencies.

## **COVID**

CCPH does have a limited supply of the new COVID annual vaccine, although only for people 6 months and older who are uninsured or underinsured. CCPH recently submitted an order for COVID vaccine for people with private insurance and hopes to receive that supply in the near future. Retail pharmacies are reported to have the COVID vaccine for those with commercial insurance but with limited supplies.

## **FLU**

CCPH recently hosted two community-wide flu vaccine clinics in Buena Vista and Salida with moderate participation. It currently has supplies for all appropriate ages and insurance types, including uninsured and underinsured.

CCPH urges the public to check with their health insurance to verify that the new COVID shot, along with flu and RSV vaccines, are covered within their benefits and what their personal financial responsibility is expected to be. CCPH will not be responsible for any balance that private insurance leaves a client.

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